

Deception Angling



OUT NOW

WWW.BECEPTIONANGLING: 88:UK
THE NEW EXTENDED RANGE

NOW OFFICIAL STOCKISTS OF KATRAN PRODUCTS







Hello and welcome, and here we are... issue 94.

As 2023 draws to an end, can we start by thanking each and every one of you who has contributed to Talking Carp again this year... our writers, our advertisers, the catch reports and the reviewers... and of course our wonderful readers... We thank you from the bottom of our rucksacks and look forward to continuing into 2024!!

We thank all of you who get in touch with us, and even encourage more to do so. So if you have a catch report to share, a tale to tell, or a review you would like to do on some of your kit...then please, please get in touch. EVERYONE is welcome here, and EVERYONE gets a crack to be in the top online carp fishing magazine. Drop us a line at the emails below... don't be shy!

And on that note we would like to wish you, your families and friends and loved ones a very merry Christmas and a happy, and prosperous, New Year. May Santa pay you a visit with some shiny new gear, and hopefully it helps land you that one fish you've been after!!

Merry Christmas from all the team at Talking Carp magazine.

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk mark@talkingcarp.co.uk markcarper@talkingcarp.co.uk

INSIDE THIS MONTH -

Cover Shot - Ade Smith - Etang St Pierremont

ARTICLES - from page 6

Page 6 - Talking Point... with Jules and Brian

Page 14 - Etang St Pierremont revisit - Talking Carp

Page 24 Joe Turnbulls - a month in the life of

Page 30 - Five Nights In by Scott Grant

Page 41Tales of a Journeyman pt 10 by Rod Bird

Page 53 - Comfort over too much kit by Richard Handel

Page 58 - Cold Water Carping by Brian Skoyles

Page 64 - East Delph Lakes Barrie Scholes

Page 72 - Halloween Havoc by Damian Wheway

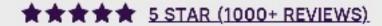


Innovative night and day carp fishing accessories for anglers of all ages and abilities!



WWW.RODDYCLIPS.CO.UK

SHOP NOW





TALKING POINT

2023 - 2024

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Well here we are.. issue 94 and its December. The end of 2023. So as we draw to a close for this year we thought we would have a chat with Jules about how 2023 went, and what we can look forward to in 2024. Welcome back Jules.

Jules: Thank you mate, it's a bitterly cold day today with a low of -4 and snow forecast tonight / tomorrow which will be interesting.

Managed a nineteen mile bike ride which as always took me close to

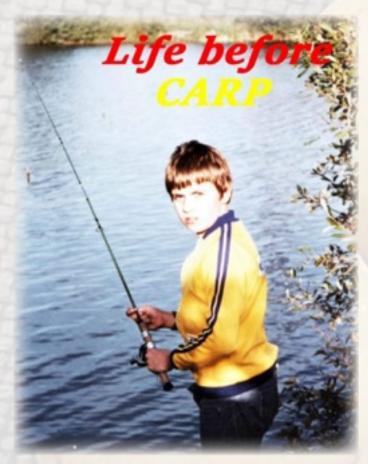
some local waters. Other than a small hole on the park lake which the ducks have kept open all the waters were solid ... and no doubt getting worse tomorrow. That's me frozen off for a few days so card writing, present wrapping and article typing I guess!

Bri: So, lets have a quick recap on how the year has gone for you. On the fishing front you seem to have been pretty consistent, with plenty of carp gracing your media pages. Would you say it has been a good year for you? Has your carp fishing for 2023 gone to plan?

Jules: On the bank I'd cautiously say yes a good year with just under three hundred carp







from eleven waters in the diary . Sounds a lot, heck is a lot but being retired from court gives you those opportunities. Had I been working I would quarter that ... or maybe less? The majority of my fishing in the bad old 'work' days was overnighters whereas most of my successes in '23 have been in the day. The only good thing about being older is nose off THAT grindstone! To plan? Sorta. Perhaps didn't milk one water when I finally started to get to grips with it and joined a water that I just can't imagine me fishing now (catfish - bait boats - distance from

home). I'd give myself a solid 7.5 outta 10!

Bri: I know we have talked in the past about being consistent, and how you prepared for the year by giving yourself a choice of venues to pick

from given any circumstances you may have been faced with. Did you manage to get around all your chosen venues? And were you successful on each one?

Jules: I probably had too many to choose from in all honesty. Without actually naming them here's an overview.

a) Syndicate A. Fished this mainly on short sessions and did well with





over 150 carp. Got to put the two new Nashbait Test Baits through their paces ready for their 2024 release (8 outta 10). b) Syndicate B. Fished mainly days and a few nights May to November. Almost 60 carp. Took a while to get PROPERLY to grips with it and should have milked it rather than flitting back to A now and again (7 outta 10).

- c) Club Water C. Fished it October '22 to April '23. Over 80 carp even some through the ice. Happy with results and baits / rigs (8 outta 10).
- d) Syndicate D. Fished twice and 3 carp
- . One for the future but didn't spend enough time there looking and learning in all honesty (3 outta 10)
- e) Syndicate E . Visited once and never fished it . Just not for me (0 outta 10) .
- f) Club Water Five times in winter and 30 carp. Simply a back up winter water which rarely freezes (8 outta 10).



g) A variety of guest / social sessions far and wide. Not one blank so I'd give myself a solid (9 outta 10).

So that's an honest resume of the last twelve months mate.

Bri: I see you have also managed to slip in the odd show, and some open days at various venues too this year. They seem to be as popular as





ever... hopefully you'll have a few more planned for 2024 and you will be out and about to meet the public. Do you have anything pencilled in already that our readers can put in their diaries to catch up with you?

Jules: Ha, that's kinda an understatement to say the least! Over the last twelve months twenty three open days at tackle shops, a pair of two day conferences, three Pike Angler Club talks, a National Anguilla Club talk and four teach in days at waters for adults and juniors alike. So believe me when people say it's nice to get tackle for free



I do smile a lot! There are no free meals at Nash Tackle / Nashbait and nor should there be! Of course 2024 is just round the store and having just signed my Nash Tackle / Nashbait contract I can't see '24 being any quieter . I'm definately at The Tackle Store, Chester 6th April, The Carp Society Festival of Carp 29th June and whatever else



comes my way. My events are ALWAYS well promoted on my social media pages so keep an eye on them.

Bri: Last month we talked about fishing into winter...and some great advice on keeping going through the colder months... so if any of our readers missed that then head back an issue, but in the meantime what are you personally expecting out of





the next few weeks? Do you have any winter targets in mind?

Jules: It really is a lottery with the weather as it is now. I try to avoid 'pinching 'a 'cheap bite 'on a commercial until just before Christmas (I do like a Christmas hat shot each year). From now till then Syndicate A and Club Water C will be in

my sights . I'm back on the Nashbait cold water Test Bait which did me proud winter '22 / spring '23 so I'm confident in it . Based around the Citruz attractors but on a soft hugely digestible base mix not only does it pull fish but you can bait up with it . It will finally be released in early '24 so keep an eye out for a huge advertising campaign . Targets ? To catch a few , a good carp in the snow and to learn how to get the best out of maggots , casters , worms and Wormcell .

Bri: One thing we have noticed is that you've been frequenting Disney Norton this year and spending time with a certain legend in carp fishing. How is Mr McDonald doing these days? Maybe I could try and twist his arm for some words for us in the near future!

Jules: He's doing brilliant and has had some amazing carp . We've just celebrated his 70th birthday and he's finally been (quite rightly) inducted into the Carp Fishing Hall Of Fame along with such lummanaries as Walker , Maddocks , Hutchinson , Little , Springate and even me . Awarded for not just the fish you've caught but your contribution to carp fishing . Hopefully there will be a formal



presentation at the Horseshoe event in June. He's always up for a chat and an interview so let's sort it in '24.

Bri: So when all is said and done, you've had a busy 2023, combining the fishing, the gigs, the bike rides, the open days and so on...with absolutely no sign of slowing down. And that is such an inspiration to so many of your followers and to that we say "keep up the great work"! And that, my friend, is all we have time for in this issue. I wish you a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Have a fantastic time with loved ones, friends and family..... and we will chat again soon. Merry Christmas Jules.

Jules: And likewise my friend, to you and all our readers. Be kind, put carp fishing into perspective and enjoy whatever is 'your thing'.

Julian Cundiff

Facebook Julian P Cundiff / Julian Cundiff Angling Instagram julescundiff1
Twitter / X @juliancundiff
Threads julescundiff1



TalkingCarp

Julian Cundiff Angling

To keep upto date with Jules and interact with him, follow him on social media on the platforms listed below





























SO many moons ago, back in September 2017, we visited a beautiful lake in France called Etang St Pierremont. We were asked by the owner to visit and write a review, as they wanted to sell the fishery. (see page 50 issue 20 October 2017)

Fast forward six years and knowing that the fishery had sold to Mike Blunt we decided a re-visit was needed to see if anything had changed. A few messages and a call to Mike and everything was sorted. Myself and Ade were going back.....

Now work commitments meant the only time this year that both of could go was the 19th November, and we could only go for 4 nights.

I had never fished in France this late in the year so was not sure what to expect. Research a week before we left showed that France as a whole had been fishing very hard due to huge amounts of rain the country had been experiencing. I had 3 or 4 mates fishing different

lakes around France and they all seemed to be blanking. This dampened our spirits a touch but at least we would be on the bank for a few nights and have the chance of a lump or two.

The tunnel was booked and the decision was made to travel light and go in Ade's car rather than the van. All landing nets, unhooking cradles and weigh slings are provided so we didn't need space for them. We took 5kg of Mainline Boilies along with some pop ups and wafters. we also took 20kg of carbon baits parti-mix.

The journey from Calais to Etang St Pierremont only takes just over 3 hours and is mainly motorway so is very easy to get to. During



TalkingCarp



the journey it became obvious the amount of rain that France had, there was flooding everywhere.

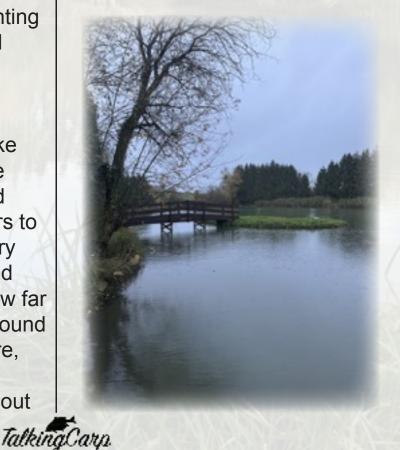
We arrived just after 2pm and were greeted by the on-site bailiff/chef Terry. We had a good chat with him and he showed us around, pointing out all of the changes Mike had made.

First up and most obvious was that a lot of work around the lake had been carried out. The huge bamboo bush on the island had gone, opening it up for 2 anglers to fish comfortably and reach every spot on the lake. The bridge had been strengthened and was now far more stable. The dead trees around the lake, last time we were there, had been cut down making the place look lovely. The sun was out

and due to the evergreen trees in the area it felt like summer.

Next up, we were shown the caravan, a nice 3 bedroom static caravan right along side the lake. last time we came the caravan was a bit run down, the boiler never worked and it was like an oven inside, in the summer. Terry showed us the new boiler

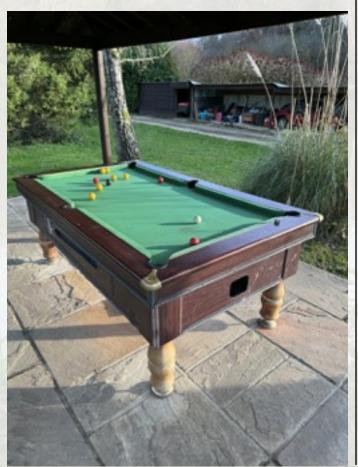
that had been installed meaning no more cold showers, Mike had also installed a water filtration system meaning that the tap water could be drunk, on our last visit the water was like slime and smelt bad, not



the case anymore. Satellite television has been added and high speed broadband internet which covers the whole pool. Finally, an air-conditioning system had been installed in the van, so not only will visitors in the

summer be cooled down but for us we could put it onto the heat setting. Very nice.

Outside we were shown the new





social area that had been made, including a full size pool table. This proved to be fantastic fun during our stay, whilst waiting for the fish to bite. There is now a fully stocked tackle shop next to the main house selling absolutely everything you need at good prices

Right, onto the fishing, We chose our peg based on our last visit and decided to basically fish to the spots that produced the fish last time. we agreed to take it in turns on the rods, however if one of us hooked the sturgeon, this would not count as your turn, lol. The sturgeon is known to get caught quite often during the week.

The rods were put out, baited up with a couple of handfuls of boilies. and a scattering of particle. we then waited and waited... then





came the rain, and boy did that come down. The temperature then dropped during the night to 2 degrees C.

Next morning we got up to freezing conditions and motionless rods. We re-cast all 6 to the same spots and put some more bait in. We agreed that if nothing happened by midday we would re-think our spots.

Breakfast done, brews drunk, it was now midday. Ade and I had sat watching the water all morning looking for a sign. We had noticed that every so often a few small fish jumped, as if getting scared by something, around 12 wraps out in open water. we decided to see if it may be carp spooking

them so we put 2 rods at 12 wraps and 2 at 10 1/2 wraps on a yellow pineapple pop up using Castaway PVA stringer and a mesh stick. The remaining 2 rods we came off the reeds, 2 rod lengths rather than tight up to see if that made a difference. Obviously the spots we used to have were summer spots.



TalkingCarp



Terry then popped over and invited us for a curry that night up at the main house. A quick drive to the supermarket for the ingredients and some goodies and we were back with the rods in position

6pm up to the house we went, Terry had made 2 awesome curries, one



hot and one sweet, bread and fluffy rice were also there. The food was lovely

Terry told us that they now offer a food package for all guests which is fantastic value. You start the day off with a full English breakfast baguette delivered to your peg.





TalkingCarp



The evening meal is served at the main house eating area. Evening meals are fully adaptable to the guests choice, but some examples are Lasagne, Spaghetti Bolognese, Full Sunday Roast, Chicken chips and peas, Sausage mash and onion gravy, a BBQ night. There are also vegetarian options available as well as cold options if wanted. All of this for only £160 per person. Definitely worth the money.

Back to the peg with full stomachs. All stayed quiet until 8:30pm when Smiffys rod by the reeds went into melt down. At last a run, lets make this count. The fish fought hard and after being run ragged for 5 minutes it showed itself. THE STURGEON. Gutted but at least it was a fish.

We unhooked the fish in the water

rather than landing it ,so unsure what the weight was. We were not after the sturgeon so were not bothered about the weight.

The rod was put back on the same spot and 30 minutes later was away again. This time it was a slower run. Ade hit into the fish and his rod bent double. The fish fought like mad, stripping line off the reel with no chance of it stopping. The fish eventually topped around 20 yards out. THE STURGEON AGAIN! Twice in 30 minutes, what are the chances.

Out the rod went again. 9:30pm, absolute screamer. Reed rod again. Surely this has to be a carp. There's no way a sturgeon can get caught 3 times in an hour from the same spot? WRONG. It was yet again





the sturgeon. The same one lol.

This time the rod was moved another rod length out. The rest of the night was quiet and very cold. We persevered with the new spots as we had been getting liners during the night which told us that the fish were moving about.

8:30pm again, a run, a screamer, this time a different rod, in open water. Ade played the fish which fought totally different to the sturgeon. This fish plodded and just took line when it wanted to. After a 10 minute fight a lovely mirror crossed the net cord. As it did my rod tore off. We let the mirror rest whilst I played my fish.

After a good battle it showed itself. There I was thinking a double take and what would be a great picture then up pops (yes you've guessed it) THE STURGEON. 4th time in 24 hours.

Unhooked again, attention turned to Ade's carp.

The fish weighed 38lb 12oz and was a big relief that we had managed to catch one. The pressure was now off. We took some pictures which were not the best as we wanted to get it back in. The fish was treated and slipped back.

It was now my turn on the rods. and of course my run would come whilst I was fast asleep,. 3;20am, 1 degree and off it goes. I was NOT complaining though. After a nice





fight which was made easier using the Katran Crypton line with the blue light on the head torch. My fish was another 30, weighing 33lb 1oz. A few pictures and back she went.

6am another rod was away. This time Smiffy had a great battle with the fish running him a merry dance. Once in the net I had a little look at it. Lying there in the bottom was

a lump of a common. Ade's PB common was 35lb, I knew this had beaten it just by looking at it.

Up onto the scales it went. 43lb3oz and a new PB for him. What a result.

The sun had come up quickly whilst playing the fish, meaning we got some nice daylight pictures of

the fish. Rods back out and nothing happened until 3:15pm, when one of the rods went off with a single toner. I played the fish for a while knowing it felt better than my 33 last night. I was right. In the net was a nice big mirror. Would it hit 40? Could we get 2 40's in the same day after such a slow start.? YES, we could! The mirror went 40lb 3oz. We weighed it 3 times to make sure.

Happy days.

Only 12 hours left and we felt that given the weather and the time



TalkingCarp



What a place this is! If you're looking for a great place in France with all of the home comforts ,drop Mike a message and he will sort you out.

We will be returning in the summer to try and catch one of the big girls.

of year we had done well. However, 8:30pm yet again and Ade was into another fish. This one weighed 38lb on the nose.

Throughout the night, we had a further 4 mirrors, every singe one over 30lb, a 31lb, a 32lb 6oz, a 31lb 1oz and a 30lb 7oz.

We left the lake at 5am and literally as we were packing up, the last rods one screamed off. However, it was lost in the weed.

Total for the 4 nights finished at seven 30lb mirrors, one 40lb common, one 40lb mirror and four sturgeon. All this in November.

Etang St Pierremont is a 2 1/2 acre intimate water that caters for groups with up to 4 fishing. There are currently two known 60's with the lake record being 64lb 5oz. There are numerous 50's ,loads of 40's and dozens of 30lb carp.

Multiple catches in a week are common and with fish of this stamp you will have a great time.

P.S. Don't forget about the food package.

Thankyou for your hospitality Mike and Terry.

Mike - 07774747237

www.etangstpierremont.com





So, December is finally here and once again Christmas is looming. Weather wise we've had a taste of winter and finally the banks have again started to become quieter. I absolutely love this time of year mainly for its lack of anglers but mostly because the lakes can at times almost feel like they belong to me. November was fairly busy for me with fishing and work both taking their fair share of the limelight, but I had some nice carp eventually. I had the Ridgemonkey social to attend in the middle of November which took place at the Oxford linear fisheries St Johns lake. St Johns, if you're not familiar is the oldest venue on the complex with it holding lots of old carp up to 47lb. It was a real dreary few days' weather wise but ok for catching carp and there were a few fish caught around the lake. It was a social at the end of the day, so making precedence to get into a going swim really wasn't my priority. It would have been great to get where the majority of the fish were but sadly some 'team' members had decided to get there early so those swims were already occupied. I managed to get in one of the last swims tucked right at the end of lake. It was a cold north westerly wind over those days, and it blew

up toward me for the majority of the session. This was far from an ideal swim choice, but I fished it well and hoped that something would come along. Sadly, I had not so much as a bleep in the 48hrs there. As I say it was social, but it was arranged more so that we could get together to discuss plans for the coming year and talk over new unreleased products. Being a sponsored angler by a large company such as Korda, Nash, Fox or Ridgemonkey is not just about having to go fishing. These days there are lots of things that are required of you so if you're looking to get into the trade in any way,



TalkingCarp



you need to expand your horizons. Filmography, photography, social media skills, writing and good on camera are all things needed as well as being professional across your social media platforms. Unfortunately, I can't tell you too much, but we have a fantastic new product being released which will once again change the way we fish. The guys in the team were all taken back by the new product and as it was passed around and there were lots of questions about when it was due to be in our hands so watch this space.

PRE-BAITING IN WINTER

On the fishing front it's been a little bit slow as expected but I've kept the bait going in on a spot and so far, have managed to keep it quiet at the club lake. There's a big head of carp in this particular venue as well as Tench, roach and bream but they've slowed down now which is great for me. One of the best tactics for catching carp throughout the year is to pre-bait and if you can get a spot going without anyone fishing it for a while, you'll be amazed at just how effective it can be. The trick to successful prebaiting is to keep the bait going in on a spot without the temptation of actually putting a hook bait on it. Its probably the worse bit about it because you just know that that the carp will be queuing up on the feed. You see the longer you can keep it going in without fishing it, the better. I'd been baiting up this particular spot for around two months without putting a bait on it. The good thing about doing it through the winter is that unlike most other seasons the carp don't tend to give the game away by showing and rolling over the bait. This can often tell any other angler where the carp may





be but as I say, in winter they are much less likely to do that. Also, anything such as hemp, corn, crushed and blitzed boilies and ground baits can all be effective so if you are thinking about pre-baiting a spot, don't be too bothered about the type of bait you want to try. I'm using 10mm Cell and lots of liquids because the area I'm targeting is already clean. However, if you wanted to target an area of silt that you know underneath is either firm gravel or clay (which lots are) you'd be better off trying smaller particle

baits such as, low oil pellet, hemp and corn but don't forget liquids. Talking of liquids, I've been making and using a liquid mix that's been doing really well for me over the years and you can make it yourself with a few key ingredients. To make it is simple and all you need is some Meta-Mino, Sweet-Ade and a flavour of your choice. The Meta-Mino as a liquid is an amino based compound that also contains a fish feed inducing agent. It has no smell or taste and will not alter any other additives that you might add to it, so it makes for perfect base to use. The sweet Ade is added because flavours do not taste how they smell, in fact if you tasted a flavour, they taste very sharp and synthetic but once these two are mixed together, they not only smell like the 'flavour' but also taste like it. Once this little lot is mixed together you can then use it as a glug or dip or simply add to your freebies. Something I like to do is to thaw my boilies out and add them to a bucket, then add about a 30ml of my mix to the bait then put them back into the freezer. Once they start to freeze again, the boilies will draw the liquid into themselves thus creating a double super boosted a high leakage high attract boilie.

LIQUIDS.

Heres how to make this high attract liquid.

Take 30ml of Multi-Mino and add it to a tub, followed by 6ml of Sweet Ade, followed by 4ml of banoffee. As I say, you can add what ever flavour you like but I like banoffee more so in winter as it has an ethyl base which works very well in cold water. Ethyl alcohol is a substance that's basically extremely dissolvable in water, so it makes perfect sense to use it in cold water mixes. Once you've given the tub a shake you can then do whatever you like with it but used as a glug or dip is very very effective.

So, after some time of pre-baiting my small spot, the time came for me to drop a hook bait on it. I always get a bit nervous when I first drop a hook bait on a baited spot because you never quite know how its going to go. Sometimes you can

lower a bait down and get a take instantly and other times you can sit and wait much like any other time but if there's one thing that's amazing about it, you WILL get a take. On this occasion it was a sit and wait job, but I didn't have to wait too long for my first take as an hour after dropping my hook bait in I found myself connected to a rather hefty lump of carp. I had three carp that day that went 24lb, 28lb and 31lb so that pre bating was well worth the effort and to make it even more rewarding, the weather was absolutely freezing.

Well, all that's left for me to say is that I wish you a very merry Christmas, thanks for reading my antics I hope you've enjoyed it and I hope you have plenty of carp in the New Year!

Best wishes

JT



Joe's Carp Tutorials

www.joescarptutorials.co.uk

BOOK NOW!

- Offering a personal tuition service
- Casting
- Feeling the lead down
- Watercraft
- Bait Application









After only fishing two sessions on my other Kent syndicate water since the start of the year, I decided I had to put more effort and time in. For me it's a juggling act between family, work, fishing, and scuba diving, trying to get the balance right is definitely the key. Earlier this year I progressed more in my scuba and later in the year I will be trying to progress even more, but like anything it takes a lot of time and dedication. My fishing this year has suffered somewhat, so I decided my next session would be on my Kent water. It is a quaint water about 5-6 acres with a great stock, with the top fish being a 60lb common at the right time of the year. Theres a 48hr rule in place and you cannot return until a further 48hrs, which for

me is something I must deal with. I like to fish long sessions if I can, 4 nights is perfect once a month, but on here you must abide by the rules. It was a typical week at work for me with my rest days being the middle of the week. My bait was prepped and the van was loaded, It was the start of August so the kids were on school holidays and the traffic was very light so it didn't take me long to get to the lake once I had crossed over to the dark side.

As I pulled into the gate there was only one car parked up, which was a welcome sight as it can get very busy. It was a fella called Mark he was fishing a swim just to the left of the centre of the lake, the swim I fancied was next door to him and with no one else on the lake I decided against it, I am old skool and like to give other angler's room. I saw a fish poke its head up on the other side of the lake so I done no more and made my way around to the other side. Once in the swim I sat on my bucket just





watching the water. With an array of snags to the left of the swim I was sure it would hold carp. I checked the weather again just to make sure, we had big winds coupled with rain and low pressure moving in later tonight and for the next few days it looks bang on for it. A further 10 minutes later and a unit of a fish crashed out right Infront of the snags, that was enough evidence for me, I left my bucket in the swim and went to fetch the rest of my gear from the van. Daren who runs the lake came into the swim and said to me "this is a great swim to be in for the weather we have over the next 2 days" music to my ears this could end up being a session of a lifetime, he also gave me a couple of pointers to go at.

Two barrow loads later and it was time to get everything sorted, an hour later everything was in place and the only thing left to do was get the rods out. The lake is really weedy and presenting a bait brings its own challenges, you have to think out of the box

if you want to catch one of the beauties that reside in here. Now on this lake the use of a bait boats is permitted, however you have a maniac swan to contend with, he has already sunk a few boats so I had to wait until he went to the other end of the lake before sending the boat out to

See what areas I could find if any.

Daren said this particular swim has some deep areas and he wasn't wrong, I found a spot right at the edge of the snags for the left-hand rod in low lying weed in 12ft, the middle rod was fished a bit further out but in the same line in amongst low lying weed in 12ft, and the right-hand rod was fished out into open



water at 30 yards again in low lying weed with floor to ceiling weed either side this was in 10ft. My bait approach is the same everywhere for this time of the year, the ever-faithful Monster Tuna used in conjunction with chillie hemp.

Hook baits of choice for the session were Monster Tuna wafters fished on a Ronnie rig. Rig components were Deception Angling with the hook link being from Katran. With the rods out it was time to sit back and see what happens.

Another member Michael turned up with his boy and they were only fishing for



a few hours and decided to go into the swim to my right, and due to the shape of the lake they wouldn't be interfering with me in any way, so I had no problem with it. His boy reminded me of myself many years ago sitting there with a float catching roach and perch for fun, the lad was in his element, which was lovely to see. Later that same evening Michael and his boy packed up and left, another angler turned up and went into the swim right next to Mark. I was adamant I had made the right swim choice I felt so confident especially with the bait and end tackle, but like always only time will tell.



Just into early evening and the rain started to come down, the pressure had fallen to 1005 and dropping down to 995 by the morning, the conditions are bang on. After a hot meal I settled down for the night, I drifted off to sleep around midnight with the rain still coming down.





I woke up at 5am the wind was hacking into my swim, the rain had subsided and the mist was dancing across the water, what a spectacle and people wonder why we go fishing. The kettle went on for my first coffee of the day. I sat there watching the water like a hawk, I got my reward at

just after 8am when a unit of a fish showed over the middle rod, followed moments later by another, the fish were definitely here. An hour later the left hand alarm sounded and the bobbin tightened up, I lifted into the fish and it weeded me almost immediately, I could not get any movement on the fish so I had no choice but to keep the line tight and put the rod back in the rest, just as I put the rod down the middle rod was away, I lifted into the fish and a few moments later it done exactly the same!! Great, I kept the line tight and put the rod back in the rest. I grabbed my phone to give Daren a call and he came walking down the path. I explained the situation and he went around to a swim to my left where there is a boat with oars and a life jacket which can be used to land snagged fish.

Daren went out in the boat and just as he went to grab the line of my left-hand rod the fish shot out into open water, I played the fish in with no problems which turned out to be a lovely dark mirror of 16lb plus, but I did not care it was a fish. The fish was secured in the net, I then picked the middle rod up Daren got above the line in the boat and he could feel the fish still on, he





gave a gentle pull and the fish swam free, I played the fish and it felt a lot bigger than the one I just landed, Daren had put the boat back and walked back round to me, I kept the rod high and the line tight, the fish rolled over just to the left of the swim and it was a lovely common, with Daren next to me I started to walk backwards due to the vast amount of weed on the line. Daren had the net and as the fish rolled again just in front of the swim he done no



more then jumped in!!! I was gobsmacked then he said "Don't loose this one mate it's the biggun" as you can imagine my arse fell out and the fish started to find more energy going under my right rod, but I kept it all together and a few minutes later Daren netted a huge common.

I was absolutely blown away as I knew the big common was definitely over 50lb, and is my new PB common for sure. The net was secured, I grabbed my digital scales, wet the weigh sling then zeroed it out, Daren gave me a hand getting the fish safely into the mat, then the moment of truth, Mark appeared as did James to witness this immense fish, Mark lifted her up and the digitals read a weight of 54lb 10oz!!

The fish was in immaculate condition and behaved herself whilst having



her photos, but the sheer size and weight was taking a toll on my back, but we had plenty of photos, I treated her inner mouth with some antiseptic before having a few water shots, we all witnessed her swim off strongly. I just sat there in a daze not really knowing what to say or do, my phone went into melt down and the person I called first was



Craig Outram owner of A2 baits, he was so excited and for me it makes all the graft worthwhile, when you get a reaction like that from one of your sponsors, the bait just keep giving and this was another PB to be added to the list all credit to Craig for making an outstanding bait. I then

spoke to my Mrs who was over the moon then my other sponsors who were all grateful for the call, and all very excited for me. My old mukka Jacko called me and congratulated me and I thanked him again for giving me the privilege to fish such an iconic lake with great stock and a great bunch of syndicate lads. It was a mental kind of a day and its days that do not come along very often and when they do its quite something else. I had actually fished only 5 nights and had achieved my target, sometimes everything just falls into place, I am also a great believer that everything happens for a reason.

Daren really was a top bailiff helping with everything, and nothing is too much trouble, he is always on hand to help, which is greatly appreciated. It seemed like hours had passed before I managed to get the rods back out on their spots, as the rain was due to arrive at 1pm and it is raining

right through until the early hours. The rain arrived at 3pm, Den another member turned up and he was doing an overnighter, it was absolutely pelting it down and as he flew past me with his barrow, I did not envy him one bit, but fair play to him for his commitment. Around 5pm the rain got



TalkingCarp

heavier, and it was absolutely chucking it down, my bivvy started to flood and the groundsheet felt like I was on a Lilo!!! A few hours later the rain subsided and I assessed the situation. Everything that was on the floor was soaking wet, I managed to get all the bits to the back of the van for drying out, but couldn't do much else until the water drained away naturally. After running round like a maniac for the last hour, I chilled out and had to ignore what had happened and have some dinner, after all look at what I have caught, nothing could bring me down from cloud 9.

I settled down for the night and managed to go to sleep just after midnight, only to wake up and 0230 busting for a pee!! I got bag in the bag and drifted back off to sleep only to be woken by Den at 0500 oclock asking if I would take some photos for him. I jumped up got dressed and went round to the next swim to my left. He had banked a fish known as Single scale at 36lb a real old dark warrior, he had also banked a couple of 20lbers through the night. Come 0600 oclock Den was all packed up and off to work.

I had a few cups of coffee then started a slow pack down, just after 10 oclock I got a drop back on the right hand rod, then minutes later a unit of a fish crashed out right over the spot. I was sure the rod would go as



there was fizzing right over the spot!! every now and then I would get a single bleep it was nail biting just waiting for the rod to tear off. Most of my gear was packed away with the few bits I had left I was going at a snails pace as I knew sooner or later the rod would go. The single bleeps carried on for the next 45 minutes then all went quiet, I started thinking I had been done. By now everything was on the barrow and I only had my rods and buzzers to pack away, out of the blue the middle rod tore off which was very surprising and after a proper scrap I managed to slide the net under a lovely dark mirror, which turned out to be 34lb 9oz. Another member Perrin was walking round who kindly obliged and took great photos, thanks mate. Well, what a session that was catching the smallest and the biggest in the lake finished off with a mid 30lber, you could not write it.

What helps massively is the quality products I use in my fishing from the bait to the end tackle, if you have confident in what you use that is half the battle won. In my next session the bait just keeps producing stunning fish so look out for my article in the next month's edition.

I would like to wish all the readers and fellow anglers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Big love to all of you and your families.



I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.

www.a2baits.co.uk www.deceptionangling.co.uk www.Katran.co.uk In the Margin Particles (Facebook) www.castaway-pva.co.uk

If you would like more information on becoming a member of The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. Also available is the brand new "Jacko" pops_www.a2baits.co.uk Hook links, leaders, braided mainline and a whole host of various end tackle have a look at www.katran.co.uk you will not be disappointed. For the sharpest and strongest hooks, plus the ready tied "Ronnie rigs" that do not cost a fortune, plus an array of quality end tackle have a look at www.deceptionangling.co.uk you will not be disappointed. If you want to order the best chillie hemp by a country mile have a look at "In the margin particles" on Facebook, or call Matt on 07739-961966. For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing. www.castaway-pva.co.uk

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant







TALES OF A CARPING JOURNEYMAN #10



Turners Lake, Norton Disney

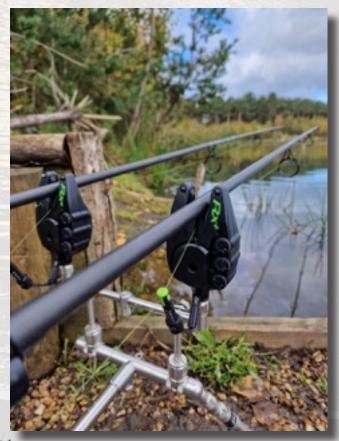
The 7th of November saw me heading back down to the Norton Disney Embryo complex, I'd fished there a couple of times before on Pettitts and Billy's Lake and had done quite well, but I felt a change was on the cards, and I wasn't wrong. On arrival it was obvious that there was a water level issue, driving down the road between Billy's and Pettitts I noted that a lot of swims were underwater, and the complex looked very quiet.

I booked in and decided to go for a walk around the whole complex, with it being November and there was a chill in the air, I didn't fancy sitting on one of the harder waters behind quiet alarms, so had a look at the 2 smaller lakes, but after talking to the few guys that were on I decided that fishing for smaller carp really wasn't something I wanted to do, and no a bite isn't a bite at this time of year, fishing for tiddlers is not for me, if I want to catch small fish I can do that on my doorstep at Charlies.

Most of the pegs on Billy's were as I said underwater, and those that were not had bivvy's on them, Pettits was the same, except peg 1, that was empty and fishable,

but the Diawa boys were on the opposite pegs so decided that there was a chance that it may have been filled in. I headed over to Turners, which only a few anglers on. After walking round twice my feet were soaking as I still had my trainers on... school boy error. I decided that I was going to fish the lake, the peg choice could wait, I headed back to reception and got my van, after changing into my wellies I headed back to Turners.

After an hour of checking pegs, I bumped into a guy that was leaving peg 8, he'd been there for 48hrs and had managed a carp, the only one to come out in a week, the peg



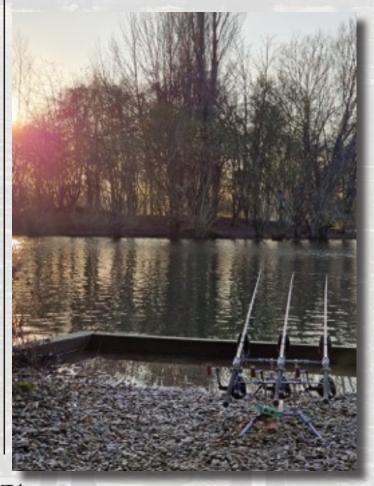


was on the back of the wind and looked pretty good. It was around 10.30am and he wasn't leaving the peg till 1pm, but that didn't phase me, I got the kettle out and had a brew and a bit of early lunch whilst I waited.

After lunch I spoke to the guy again and he was quite keen to tell me about his session, with spots, bait and other tactics, now I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth, so took note of all the info he was happy to give, as I'd not fished there before it gave me a good starting point.

1pm soon came and went, it took me about 20 minutes to get set up, as everything was all ready to go. I got my leading rod out and checked his spots, one was right out to the front at 18.5 wraps, it was a deep basin with a hard bottom, and a good size, so I thought that 2 rods on there could work for me. The second spot was along my left margin, a tree had fallen into the water, and he had caught his carp from the edge of that. It was a bit of a chew to get the lead out there as the were a few bushes sticking out between me and the tree, and like a right numpty I didn't have my

waders with me as I'd only decided to go fishing the night before when I saw the low pressure on my weather app, hey ho, I can still make this work. I estimated that the tree was around 12 wraps from my peg, so I clipped my leading rod up and cast over the bushes, and just before hitting the clip I lowered my rod out towards the lake, tightening the line before it hit the water, pulling the line down, missing the bushes. The cast was a little long, so I unclipped it and dragged it back, there was a hard spot during the pull back, I reclipped it, recast it and it went down with





a bump, yep that will do for me, I retrieved it and checked the wraps, 11.5, bang on.

I got the Spod rod out and set about the first spot at 18.5 wraps, putting out 15 Spods of crushed Sweetcorn Boilies from Karper Ltd, Sweetcorn, Crushed Maise, a good glug of Karper Sweetcorn Energiser Syrup and a few house pellets over it and then got my rods out. The rods had Spinner Rigs on, using Katran Fantom Fluorocarbon hook link and a J Precision Advanced Curve Barbless Hook with a Karper Sweetcorn Dispersion Pop Up on



one and a Karper Tutti Frutti on the other, job done.

I got the third rod out, again with a Spinner Rig on and the Sweetcorn Dispersion Pop Up, a quick walk round to the spot and baited up from the edge, dead simple...... here we go.

It didn't take long for the birdlife to fine my fallen tree bait....buggers, but it wasn't too much hastle as it was easy to re-bait or recast is needed. I did notice whilst watching the water that some carp had moved in towards the tree spot but seemed to be holding back around 10 yards and they also seemed to be a little closer to me, so I popped round to my bait up area and could see them, they were a little shorter and further out, so I popped back to the swim, and made 4 small mesh bags with 2 Pop Ups in each, grabbed my catapult and headed back round to the baiting area, luckily my first bag landed right in the middle of the carp without spooking them, I ran back round to the swim to see the Pop Ups from there, the spot was sheltered from the wind so they just sat there with a massive neon sign above saying "Carp Below Here".



Here's the dilemma, I didn't want to spook the carp by casting my leading rod into them, so decided to wait for an opportune moment, taking a few pictures of the Pop Ups on my phone for reference. I also decided to keep the tree rod in place and forgo one of my open water rods as the fellow before had caught from the tree.

After what seemed like ages all went quite, I wrapped the rod at 11 wraps and cast it out to the middle of 3 trees on the skyline, all verified by my photos, it went down with crack.....no it didn't lol, it felt like firm sand, so more of a dull thud, but that felt good, after a couple of casts left and right it felt like I'd found a small sandy hump, that was enough for me, I got one of my open water rods onto the spot, popped round and baited up from the bank.

The weather as predicted on my app changed for the worse, with high winds and rain due around 9pm, but at this time of year it would have been dark for a few hours and I'd be tucked up in my bag, so all the baiting etc was done nice and early.

At around 2am I had a couple of beeps on my Fox RX+ alarm, over my new spot, it was enough to get my feet into my wellies and a waterproof jacket on as it was hammering it down. I checked the bobbin and the line, nothing happening, so I got the kettle on, while waiting for it to boil, I went round to the baiting up spot and catapulted around 20 boilies onto the spot, I also topped up the tree spot, why the hell wouldn't you. On my first sip of tea (Yorkshire of course) I had another touch on the new spot, COME ON.





Over the next 10 minutes or so the wind and rain really picked up, it was miserable it really was. I finished my brew and was pondering whether to check my rig or not, I was soaking wet and cold, but then I heard a lunk out towards the spot, surely it would go soon, do I check the rig or not ARGHHHHHHH.

I decided that if I got another touch without a take, I would check the rig. No need.....it was away, an nice steady run. Luckily it headed out into the open water instead of heading to the sanctuary of the



fallen tree, there is a god up there (no honestly, there isn't) The carp was giving a good account of itself and fought really hard, with long, fast runs, changing direction often, keeping me on my toes. But it was inevitable in the end. with the hooklink from Katran and the incredible J Precision hook the carp was always going to be mine, I slipped here over the net, YES, get in there. One looking over the spreader I could see a scraper 20lb Mirror sulking in the net. I decided to unhook her in the net and peg it down, then get the rod back out, not much fun when it's hammering down with 40mph winds, but I got it done, after 3 casts.

It was now around 3.30am and freezing, I had another brew hoping that the weather would calm down, but it just wouldn't, in fact it just kept getting worse, so, tired, wet and cold I decided to slip the carp back, it had been sitting in the net far too long as it was, so I let her go, got some dry clothes on and got back into my pit, a now dry and happy man.

That was it for the session, no more carp, but it was good to get a November Carp under my belt, only December to go.....



A Working Trip To France

The 15th of November saw me heading to Bradford to pick up Ben Szyczak, Boss at Karper Ltd, as we were off to France to move the French set up, on route we would pick up Ken Dack the Karper bait guru in Basingstoke before meeting up with Mark Gooch, Karper European Team Manager at the Portsmouth ferry port, en route to Caen.....again...!!

After a long drive to the ferry, it was straight to the cabin for me to get a few hours kip. We got checked at the Ferry ports both sides, no one was interested in bait, and trust me we had plenty with us, so hopefully

this issue has gone away for now. We arrived in France on a wet morning, but the temperatures weren't too bad, this was not a full on fishing trip, we would be working during the day, but fishing a Private, unfished water at night when we finished work for

the day, we didn't have high hopes as the stock was sketchy to say the least, and time would be against us as rods would go in when dark and back out again before first light.

After the first day we finished very late, but that didn't stop Mark and I setting the Avid Screen House up and getting our rods out, we picked a swim in the middle of the lake as we knew nothing about it and could cover the whole lake from that swim. I decided on solid bags for the first night, Karper Dispersion Wafters with Sweetcorn and RS pellets, with a liberal glug of a liquid I've been testing for over a year now.



It didn't take long for me to be into my first carp at 37lb, it was a stunning Mirror that had never been caught before, it didn't have a clue what was going on, it was really strange the way it fought. It was gone past midnight by the time we had done the photos and got the rod back out. At around 2.30am I had a real screamer of a run, this thing flat rodded me about 3 times, I just couldn't stop it, towards the end of the battle the fish went under the platform our rods were on and came off, it was like a freight train. I suggested to Mark that it was either a Sturgeon or a very large Cat, but as we had no idea what was in the lake it would remain a mystery. But I dusted myself down and got the rod back out.

At 4am I had another run, this

time everything went to plan and I landed a 33lb Mirror, once again this fish had never been caught before, luvely jubely. After the photos we decided to leave that rod on the bank and try and get some sleep as we going to be working around 7.30am.

The following day was another crazy busy day, but to be honest every time Mark and I passed each other we would look at our watches, just gagging to get back to the lake. Once again it was late before we got back and it was dark, here we go again. I got the Future Carping Bait Boat out and we mapped the lake, nothing special showed up except a few dying lily beds, as it happens that's where I'd had two of my 3 runs from the night before, so we spread a few rods out in



TalkingCarp

this area with a bit more bait, and changing my approach to Maggot Rigs, but we had a quiet night. The following day was another busy one, however one good point was that the couple who feed the lake for the owner shed some light on my mystery freight train.... there's a few 60lb Grass Carp in there, so that cleared that issue up. That night once again the carp stayed away, I think they had totally shut down as they had never been fished for before, they are the owners' pets..... nice to have eh? To cut a long story very short, we didn't catch anything else, even having the whole Sunday to fish, Ben and Ken even got rods out

but failed to attach to anything.

hey, isn't hindsight a wonderful

Looking back, I should have just

stayed on the Solid Bag approach,

thing.

So, I have failed in my yearly quest for a 50lb+ Carp, it's been a strange year for me really, I've had a load of Carp from France but just not managed to hook into anything really big, but the bubble had to burst at some point, hey ho, I'll have to try harder next year.

Summary

It's been a very hard year, I've fished 19 different lakes and caught from most of them, I've loved doing this monthly article, giving you an idea of my crazy world, without being over technical in my writing, I say it as it is, and don't only write about the fish that I catch, I fail, I'm only human, but I have the mind set



to dust myself down and start again with my next cast. To fish different waters all year is not an easy task, 99.9% of the time you are starting from scratch, apart from information you can get from all the Social Media pages. I do not have prebaited swims, I don't fish the same water every week and I don't get paid to fish, or paid to support the brands that I use, the cost is high, the dedication is relentless, it has to be, but I wouldn't change a thing. It's been one of my hardest years to date, it really has, but looking back I'm very fortunate to

back I'm very fortunate to live the life that I do, and the support from my family and my beautiful wife Janet as ever is incredible, she is one of a kind.

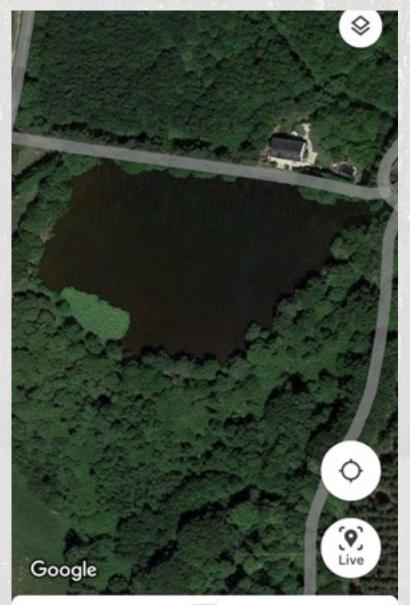
I have a close group of friends who I love to fish with, we are mainly likeminded, we bounce off each other and really enjoy our time on the bank together. The companies who I support are not your major companies, they are little more than Cottage Companies swimming in the huge pond of our Carp Fishing world, but the people in and around these companies are once

again likeminded, they work hard for little reward, and everything I can do to help them along the way makes me happy, but let's face it by producing fantastic bait, end tackle and technical products they are helping me out too, giving me the edge and confidence to keep at it.

Did I catch a Carp every month this year....sitting here on 5th of December, not as yet, but it will happen, I don't have any more trips pencilled in till well into the new year, but a few trips to good old



TalkingCarp



Charlies before Christmas should see me right, but if I don't catch another Carp to fill my carping calendar, so be it, I don't try to complete my challenge for likes on Facebook and TikTok etc, I do it to motivate myself to get out there. I hope you have enjoyed my journey; it's been a real honour telling my 2023 story. I'm just a carp angler, I'm not a name or a face, I'm one of you,

one of the million who chose this as a pastime, which let's face it becomes an obsession. Talking Carp Magazine have given me this opportunity to tell you my story and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

What's happening next year.....

well that's another story.....

Which leaves me only one more thing to say, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Carpy New Year.

Make Your Next Cast Count.... Rod Bird

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

RodBirdCarpAngler
Instagram: @carprod66
TikTok: @carprod66
Karper Ltd: https://www.

karperbaits.com

Terminal Tackle UK: https://www.

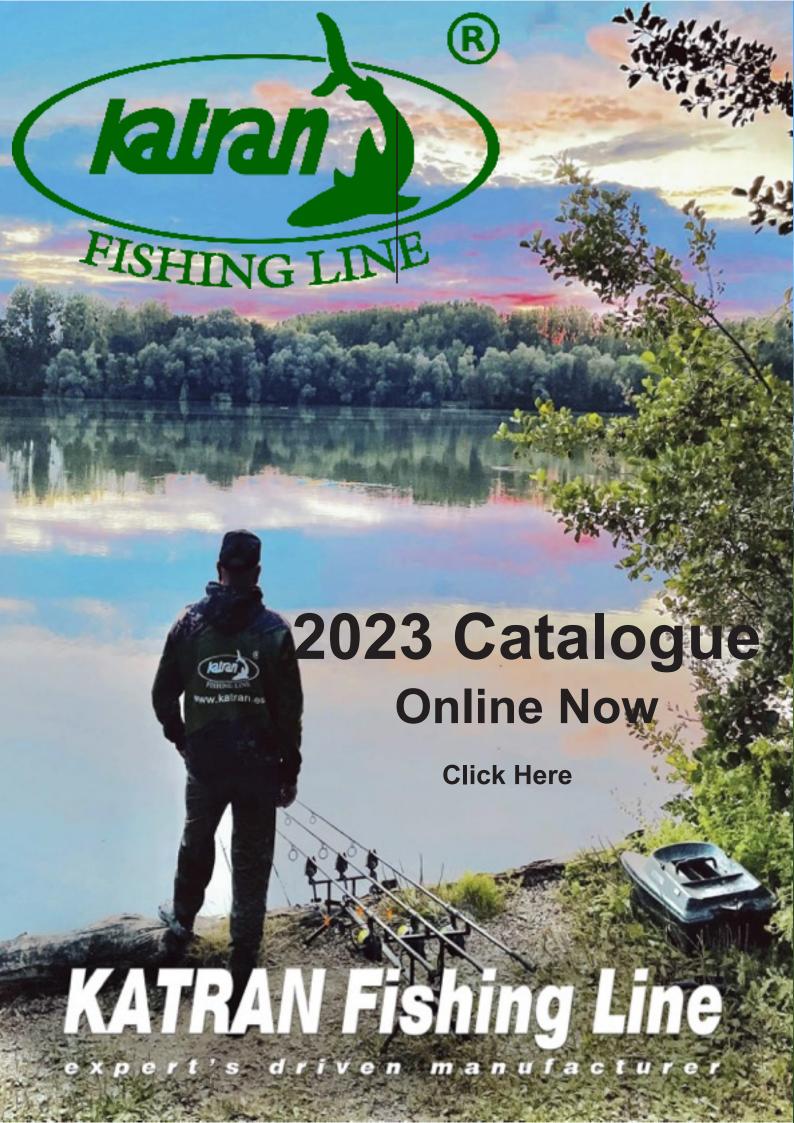
terminaltackle.uk

Future Carping: https://www.

futurecarping.co.uk

Katran Fishing Line: https://katran.

eu







More Ramblings

This is something that goes around in my head all the time. As I get older, I'm torn between comfort and taking too much kit.

I've come to appreciate the importance of comfort during my fishing trips. Having ample space to move about within my bivvy, a comfortable chair to sit on, and avoiding spending the entire day hunched up on my bedchair has become a priority. While there are quality bedchair chairs available, the key is in how you arrange your setup. I personally prefer having my bedchair aligned lengthwise inside my bivvy, which not only provides more room but also allows me to position my bivvy at an angle. This setup enables me to keep an eye on my rods and enjoy a clear view of the lake simultaneously.

It's worth noting that there's no one-size-fits-all approach to setting up your bivvy. While modern fishing equipment might suggest otherwise, I've been employing this method for years, even with bivvies like the Aqua Compact and JRC Bivvy. Now, I've upgraded to the Titan T2, which is undeniably a substantial piece of kit. Along with the inner capsule and an overwrap for those chilly winter sessions, it's an absolute game-changer in terms of comfort and versatility.

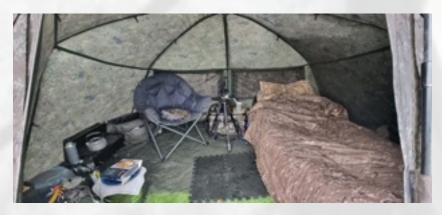
As you'll notice from the photographs, I have an undeniable penchant for comfort when I'm out on my fishing trips. Being an avid camper, I've found that camping chairs provide a level of comfort that traditional carp fishing chairs don't quite match, especially during those long hours by the water's edge. Standing at a modest 5 feet 6" with short legs, I've often found



fishing chairs to be less than comfortable for extended periods – at least for my frame.

You'll also spot my trusty Weber portable gas BBQ inside my





bivvy. This nifty addition has proven invaluable, especially on those chilly winter days and rainy sessions. A word of caution here: when using any gas equipment inside your bivvy, it's paramount to

ensure proper ventilation. I personally carry a carbon monoxide alarm as a safety precaution.

I've chosen not to use a dedicated bivvy table, opting instead for my Aqua Stax, which fits perfectly into my Fox Explorer Deluxe Barrow bag. This not only serves as a table but also offers additional protection for my gear.

A Bedchair's Position: A Matter of Perspective

My choice of bedchair positioning varies depending on where I'd like to direct my gaze. Sometimes, I prefer to have it on the left; other times, it's on the right. What might seem a bit peculiar to some, is that occasionally, I don't feel the need to focus on my swim but rather on another area of the lake. This allows me to keep an eye on developments in different parts of the lake, which can provide valuable insights for future reference – a topic that deserves its own blog post!

The Culinary Side of Carp Fishing

When it comes to cooking during my fishing excursions, I have quite an array of kit at my disposal. However, I do have a soft spot for a

proper percolated coffee. These days, I've made an effort to eat healthier, and that's why I carry a 30-liter Aquos cool box stocked with salads and the occasional packet of biscuits and chocolate bars.





The Price of Comfort: Too Much Kit?

Now, let's talk about the elephant in the room – the sheer amount of gear. My penchant for comfort comes at the cost of making a few extra trips to and from the swim. Fortunately, I have the luxury of an electric barrow to ease the burden. However, not all lakes permit multiple trips, making this a real challenge at times. It's a choice one must make – whether to embrace the convenience and extra gear or opt for a more minimalist approach.

For me, I've streamlined my tackle to the essentials, allowing me to enjoy the simplicity of a one-trip setup when I feel like it, such as using my Aqua Fast and Light or similar setups. Ultimately, it's about finding the balance between comfort and convenience, and that balance may evolve with each fishing trip.

And my Fox Explorer Deluxe barrow handles it all.

When I'm gearing up for a fishing session, I typically opt for bringing my bivvy along instead of a bucket to put in the swim. I consider myself fortunate in my membership with this syndicate, there's seldom a need for a bucket in the swim due to a unique dynamic – the first angler to arrive at the lake usually gets their choice of swim. While this system generally works smoothly, it can get a bit tricky when you're unaware of someone else scouting or driving around the lake in the opposite direction. The direction you choose to drive around the lake doesn't follow a strict rule, but sometimes, in your haste to return to the same swim, you might take the shortest route.



Despite these potential hiccups, our syndicate members maintain a harmonious atmosphere. We all get along well and are considerate anglers, fostering an environment of



Richard Handel

cooperation and flexibility. Thankfully, we have plenty of swim options that consistently produce carp, and everyone is willing to accommodate each other's preferences to ensure an enjoyable fishing experience for all.

I digress for a moment. My approach involves dividing my fishing gear into three barrow loads. The first load comprises the essentials for my fishing trip, such as my rods, bait, and fishing tackle. The second trip is dedicated to the core fishing gear, including my bedchair, sleeping bag, and other essentials. Lastly, the third trip is all about the creature comforts, like my portable gas BBQ, a spacious 30-liter Fox cool box, additional bait supplies, my reliable Anker power pack, and my new found favorite fishing and camping chair. These comfort items can be left either at home or in the car, depending on my mood and willingness to commit to a longer setup process.

When it comes to heading back home, it's all about packing everything away and sorting it out later. This stage can be a bit of a hassle, especially when you've had a full day of fishing, but it's a necessary part of the process. I've found a workaround for this, thanks in part to my understanding wife and kids, as well as having the space to manage it. I prepare my fishing gear the day before and don't fully stow it away upon returning home. This way, I can streamline the setup process, saving time and effort on the day of the trip.

However, there are moments when simplicity reigns supreme, and I opt for a smaller bivvy and traditional fishing gear just to simplify the process and make things easier. But it doesn't take long before I miss the comfort and space of my Titan T2, leaving behind the days of being hunched up under a brolly or a low bivvy. Perhaps it's an age thing, but comfort has become a significant factor in my fishing adventures.

Till next time

Richard



TalkingCarp



We used to think that carp were uncatchable in winter, we now know different, but there are changes in behaviour that we need to understand and can allow for.

Movement Mid-summer "Bait and they will find you" is fine, the same approach in winter is more likely to become "Bait and you are throwing money away" unless you are very careful when and where you do it. Carp tend to gather in areas of the lake, "their comfort zones" and move about a lot less. You have to find them, and put any food in the right place, rather than wait for them to find you. The good news is once you have found their preferred areas, they tend to stay there and then a regular trickle of a few baits can keep the bites coming over the colder months. If it doesn't cause upset with other anglers I prefer to do this as I leave rather than as I arrive. During the actual session I favour small parcels of bait in PVA mesh bags or just single hook-baits. In recent years there has been an increased understanding of these "comfort zones" and at times they can be well up in the water so "zigs" can work well. I must admit I'm not a big "zig" fan but at times needs must.

Feeding Feeding activity can become restricted to much shorter

TalkingCarp

spells and therefore potential bite times can also become much shorter. The good news is they often become quite predictable. My favourite time for a bite on several of the waters I have fished has usually been late afternoon into dusk. If I want to refresh or reposition my hook-baits I do this early afternoon, so everything is in position as the sun sets and darkness falls, my hoped for bite time. The more you know a venue the more likely you are to "tune into" fish routines so personally I tend to select my winter venues based on research into their winter form, then stick to them.



So, you've picked your venue and from initial visits you have a reasonable idea of areas the carp are likely to be settled in as their winter home. What's next?

Arriving in the right mood by being equipped with one essential bit of kit ... A large bag of confidence!

Bait and Tactical choices The reality of cold water carping is that it can be a lot slower than summer fishing, that's where the bag of confidence comes in handy. Everything I do in the colder months is tried and tested so if the fishing is slow I don't get impatient or anxious. My rigs are the rigs I use all summer. Generally, fluorocarbon based with a flexible braid hair. The carp might be feeding less but they are the same fish, so as far as I'm concerned if a rig works well in the summer it will work well in the winter. My thoughts on bait are the same. I need to be sat there thinking, if a carp comes across my chosen food item it will be tempted to suck it in, even if it's not particularly hungry. My bait choices



are based on years of experience during which patterns have started to emerge. Not science, just hours spent on the bank freezing my socks off. I cannot explain why but spicy type baits seem to work well in cold water. For that reason, I have long been a fan of Trigga Ice. If I am fishing the same water regularly Trigga Ice is the bait that I want to trickle in between trips. It's also the bait I crumb up to use in my PVA mesh bags. I think crumbed Ice in the bags works better in terms of attraction than pellets etc. because of greater leakage. If I really want to max out on the attraction then glugging them in liquid booster is also a great tactic. With the increased water clarity upping the visual attraction is also a good





option and I often do this using a bait combination of a Trigga Ice bottom bait and a White Spice popup. The two were made for each other, a bait marriage made in heaven. The White Spice spray is also very effective on the Trigga Ice PVA mesh bags.

The only other baits I consider for their visible

attraction and proven effectiveness are good old Jolly Green Giant and maggots. I like to add a few grains of sweetcorn and some maggots in with my crushed Trigga Ice PVA mesh bags. A perfect mix of proven attractors.

.....

Cold Water Carping is about managing expectations by careful venue selection and adapting to the conditions by understanding fish behaviour. Over the years, I've done the winter bivvy sessions, scratched it's cold on the frosted bivvy sides for a winter blanking photo, and become a lover of hot water bottles and large mugs of hot chocolate, but these

days I much prefer targeted short sessions. This is not me trying to "wimp out" honest, I'm just convinced it's a more effective way to catch winter carp. Certainly, I am more focussed during short day sessions. I'm watching the water and being reasonably mobile I can move if I spot fish. More than once I've done several hours without a single bleep, seen a fish, moved



TalkingCarp

Cold water Carping

and had a bite soon after casting out. In winter that one show is unlikely to be a lone fish, so any sign is worth acting on.

I also like to have a static rod and a searching rod. I know the Trigga Ice work, so I have no doubts on that score so either the fish aren't feeding or I've set my trap in the wrong place. Usually, I have a spot in my swim that I fancy the most, that's where my static bait goes, with possibly a dozen or so baits around it, then I don't disturb it. The second rod "works" the swim and covers other likely spots using a single hook-bait or a single hook-bait with a small bag of crumb. I don't put out extra bait around this one, I don't want to end up several hours later with bait scattered everywhere. If either rod produces a take, the rest of the session concentrates on that area.

My approach to cold water carping might appear to be very simple and old fashioned. That's because it is, but it has served me well ... **It's my bag of confidence!**

Have a great Christmas everyone...

Brian Skoyles







www.gctangling.co.uk

















Barrie Scholes

For the kids summer holidays I'd promised my son Oliver that I'd take him on a 48 hour session somewhere. He's been fishing a few years now, but this would be the first time he'd fish two consecutive nights on the bank. So as you can imagine he was very excited! And so was I! Because the venue of choice was to be the well renowned East Delph Lakes, near Peterborough.



After much deliberation I'd chosen this venue (with a recommendation off Jules) as the fishing would be technically straightforward. In that it would be close range fishing with no weed. So would be ideal for Oliver, but not only that it is home to some magnificent looking carp.

The week before our planned session we'd spent a very enjoyable family holiday on the Solway coast. In between all the days out Oliver had taken full advantage of having a TV in his room at the converted barn we were staying in, and had watched every video ever made about East Delph lakes on YouTube. Which only heighted his excitement levels about our trip the following week.

Having returned from our holiday the car was loaded with enough carp equipment to sink two battleships, and we were waved off by my partner Jenni. Who was somewhat relieved she wouldn't have to listen to anymore talk about carp, for the next two days at least.



It took 3 hours to get there and we arrived at the bottom of a long dusty track that leads to the lakes at bang on 12:40. For those who don't know there is a long single lane track to East Delph Lakes and to avoid people getting in the way of each other the owner asks that anglers from the previous day are off site by



12:30 and new arrivals can then drive down at 12:40. So that's what we did and waited patiently outside the gate at the bottom of the track.

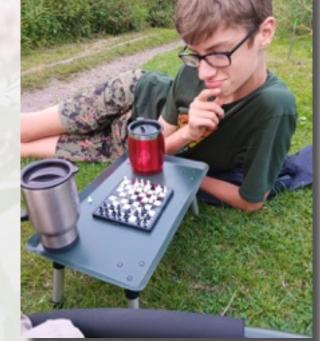
At 1pm the gates were opened and we were greeted by the owner James. We paid the remainder of our ticket money then had a look for a swim. There are three lakes on the complex. The Front Lake, the Back Lake and the Long Lake. We were booked on the Front Lake.

The Front Lake, it's approximately 2 acres in size with two small islands. It has nine swims but only six anglers

are allowed on the lake at any one time. On the day we arrived there were three other anglers already on the lake. After a quick look round we decided on two swims, 'The Dry Swim' and 'The Anti Social' swim as

this would mean we could fish next to each other. There was fizzing in front of both swims so it seemed as good a place to fish as any. With our swims chosen it was a case of barrowing all the gear from the car and collecting our nets, slings and unhooking mats which are all provided for by the fishery. We also bought a couple of bags of fishery pellets too. I cast out a couple of bright barrel wafters with mesh bags of house pellets to begin with, just to see if I could get a quick bite while I put the bivvy up and sorted the rest of the gear out.

Once my swim was all in order I then





had to help my son with his, as for some reason he takes twice as long as I do to get set up, which takes some doing as I'm not the fastest myself! Back in my swim, and with no quick bite, it was time to spend a bit more time getting the rods out. I'd gone in "The Dry Swim" to give Oliver, what I thought would be the better swim "The Anti Social". In his swim he had access to one of the islands as well as quite a bit of open water too. My swim on the other hand was a little corner swim. Still a decent swim but I do find corner swims a bit all or nothing. They are either in there or they're not. I redid the rods with my normal snowman presentation with half a pop up as the topper. I then attached a small mesh bag of pellets. Both rods were just swung out with an under arm cast, straight in front, where the fizzing was. I then put a sprinkling of boilie and pellet over the top.

It's a great feeling at the start of a session when all the driving is done, the bivies up, you're happy with the rods and you can just relax for a bit and await events. It wasn't long before it was time for tea, I cooked chicken goujons and chips on the ridgemonkey for the both of us, then we played chess while we waited for the carp to make their first move. A







couple of fish showed on the left hand margin in my swim and Oliver suggested that I put a rod over there. I agreed, and moved my left hand rod ready for the night ahead. Eventually it became too dark for chess and we retreated to our bivies for our first night. It

was about 11 o'clock and I was just sat watching the lake when I heard a clutch start hissing. It was mine! My left hand rod was away and I'd obviously not switched the buzzer back on after I'd repositioned the rod earlier. It was all very exciting, our first ever take from East Delph. Oliver did a good job with the net and we had our first carp of the session on the bank. It was a lovely scaly mirror of which East Delph is well known for. On the scales it weighed 14lb 4oz. With pictures done it was safely returned and the rod was back out, this time with the buzzer switched on!

During the night I had another two fish, both on the right hand rod this time. Mirrors of 14lb and 10lb. Unfortunately, despite his best efforts Oliver was yet to get off the mark when the sun rose the next morning. At about 8:30 am the left hand rod was away again. This one felt a bit bigger

TalkingCarp

this time. I called for Oliver but he never came as he was playing a fish himself! I netted mine and could see it was a twenty. Oliver safely netted his fish too and he was off the mark. I was so pleased for him. Mine went 23lb and although Oliver's was only 7lb it was a nice looking linear. We had a father and son picture with the fish, before putting them



back and having squasage (square sausages) butties for breakfast to celebrate. By 12 o'clock the other anglers had left the lake and there was only us and one other angler on the entire complex. More anglers were due at 1pm so before they arrived we decided to reel in the rods and explore the



rest of the complex. We had a good look round the Back and Long Lakes and we took a few sight seeing pictures of the Creepy caravan, the graffiti artwork and the "No Fishing" sign. All the while accompanied by Gaby the Goose!

Back in our swims we got the rods back out and relaxed for the afternoon. The weather during our stay was really hot and action during the daytime had been slow. It was a case of just enjoying being there while hopefully waiting for bite time once the temperature cooled.

Oliver bought some really cool stickers off James for his tackle box, before we settled down for the night full of hope and anticipation. It wasn't until 3:15 am when our sleep was broken by the sound of a buzzer. It was my left hand rod again. After a short fight Oliver was on hand to do the honours with the net. It was another mirror for me. A rather chunky

one with leathery flanks. It weighed 17.5lb and was to be the last fish of our trip.



It was tricky packing up on the final morning, what with my fingers being crossed hoping one of Oliver's rod would scream off. But unfortunately they remained silent. Although he hadn't caught his first twenty that

TalkingCarp

he so desperately craves he had enjoyed every minute of the trip, and he had caught a carp. I always think that if you go to a new venue for the first time, and catch a carp, it's a job well done. Between the two of us we'd had six fish to 23lb and had a really enjoyable trip in lovely surroundings. We were both sad to be leaving and despite the distance from our home we will be plotting scheming to get back to East Delph Lakes as soon as possible.

I can't recommend East Delph Lakes enough. It is run as a day ticket venue but because of the restriction on numbers it feels more like a syndicate or quite club water. You can book as an individual or as a group or lake exclusive. All the information on booking is on their website along with piture galleries that will show you what a great stock of carp live in the lakes. If you do decide to go I might see you there, because I'll definitely be going back that's for sure!

Barrie

Instagram: barriescholes







for the great outdoors.

AFEare Droposck Winter Clothing Range Available in Small to XXXL. Nineigarments within the range.





For me, Autumn has to be my favorite time of the year to be on the bank. With the nights drawing in and the weather becoming more unpredictable, early October through to mid-December has always been a more successful period in my annual fishing adventures. It's not just about fishing either, being on the bank with the fresh air, the sounds and sights of nature and for me, the solitude. As all this combined with the fishing has been incredibly important in keeping my mental health at a manageable level. This, I know for a fact, is a very familiar position for a lot of anglers out there.

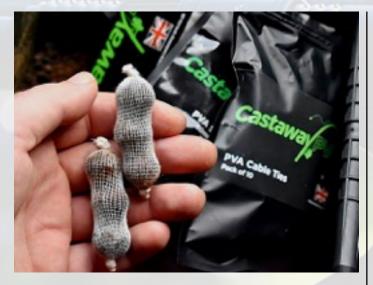
In this article, I'll be focusing on a session on my syndicate back in October, where I'll be running through some of my rigs, baits and tactics that over the last six years on this venue have become increasingly consistent, even when the fishing has been at its toughest. Fenwood Syndicate, being part of Avalon Fisheries, is situated on the Somerset Levels, a few miles outside of Glastonbury. A good number of fish, ranging from single figures right up to a few ounces shy of the magical 40lb mark. In

addition to the syndicate lake, Avalon also has 2 day ticket waters, a match and pleasure fishing lake and specimen carp lake. The area is one of Somerset's most protected nature reserves which is home to a vast collection of wildlife from mink. deer, foxes, buzzards, kingfishers and countless other mammals, reptiles and bird life which make this historical region a real pleasure to visit. Due to its landscape, the levels can often experience some extreme weather conditions ranging from searing heat to flooding, high winds and sub-zero temperatures.

Now I'm not an angler where weather conditions play too much of a role as to whether I will or won't go fishing. To me, if they're there, they can be caught! However, this particular week had promised heavy rain showers, a big easterly wind changing from a consistently persistent southwesterly, and a







massive pressure drop. These conditions combined were too good to ignore, so I set out for a turbulent few days in the hope of something special.

My baiting approach has evolved a lot over the years on Fenwood. When I joined in 2017, it was weedy, and I mean weedy. I'd say half of the pegs from the spring through to January were unfishable due to its abundance, so I would often come prepared with up to 40 kgs of particle and just row it out over a spot and fish solid bags over the top. This method worked well for me, but if I'm honest it felt a bit hit and miss as fish were often lost to the blankets of weed, so it was hard going, especially after all the effort of getting a hookbait presented well. Now, however, after a lot of complaints from

other members, due to the lake being dyed in 2020 the weed is nonexistent, which, I have to be honest, has made the fishing much harder. I now use a pellet and boilie only approach, mesh bags instead of solid bags and long fluorocarbon rigs as opposed to short supple braid presentations. One thing that has never changed is my hookbait arrangement. The Snowman has been a method I've used for quite a few years now on nearly all the venues I fish and it's been responsible for at least 90% of my captures this year. I've been baiting quite heavily this year, usually taking five to 10 kilos of boilie and another 15 to 20 kilos of pellet to last a 72 or 96 hour session. It doesn't sound a lot for that amount of time, but the fish don't tend to respond to large beds of bait like they used to, so it's a couple of kilos a chuck fishing for a bite at a time.



TalkingCarp

Having arrived at the lake early afternoon on the Monday, I already had a peg in mind with the incoming weather front, but I did a lap of the lake, naturally. There was no one else on when I arrived, so with nothing to see and with no other anglers to talk to after walking the perimeter, I opted for peg 10. Situated on the far bank, fairly central to the lakes long design, I'll have the weather on my back and more importantly, peace and quiet. I set up camp after the ever arduous barrow round at around 4pm. Basic bait prep is always done at home, but I always like to add any liquids and powders/meals at the start of the session.

Having joined Sticky Baits last year, I've been using a lot of the bloodworm range as I knew a lot of the krill gets used here and in previous years with the abundance of naturals present, bloodworm just made sense. I use a lot of standard





low oil pellet in my method, making up about 60% of my mix, 30% bloodworm pellet in various sizes, and 10% bloodworm boilie. This all gets treated to a good dose of bloodworm cloudy liquid, some bloodworm active mix and some lake water. It binds just enough to not spread too much when hitting the water, has lots of different sizes of feed and smells great.

My rig of choice has been equally consistent this year, having previously used an array of different hook patterns, rig materials and components. After joining forces with Deception Angling almost two years ago, I've stuck to one rig and over time tweaked it to the point where I'm confident wherever I go that it will put fish on the bank. And after all, confidence is key, right? The rig in question



is my fluorocarbon German rig. Consisting of Deception Angling's very own components, the size 4 TWG hook, mini kicker, shank bead, micro ring swivel and an anti-tangle sleeve. The length sometimes varies, but is usually 12 to 14 inches and I can say honestly it's the most effective rig I've ever used. With the bait stewed and the rigs tide, the faithful snowman is mounted. Comprising of a bloodworm boilie and a pink krill pop-up, a quick dip in the Sticky Baits pure Calanus hydro and a dusting of pure natural liver powder, its ready to deploy. Being a short to medium range water, I've been using a bait boat a lot this year, more so to find the tighter, more unattainable spots that the fish are now so fond of since the disappearance of the weed. That being said,

big pit fishing at range is more my style of fishing, but that's another story. With my three spots decided and the bait boat ready, last but not least, I always finish off with a PVA nugget or small 25mm mesh bag of three boilies just to see the hook down safely. I've been using Castaway PVA products for a few years now and I can't rate it highly enough, and since being asked to consult with the current and forthcoming products, it's an exciting time for me and the brand.

With everything set up and the kettle on, I try and zone out for a bit from regular life and take in all the sounds and visuals I'm lucky to witness living in this part of the country. I never expect a bite early on here, so was surprised when the silence was broken with a single toner on the middle rod just as the



TalkingCarp

light was fading. I was even more surprised to discover the culprit was a little scaly mirror that I can only assume was a little over 3lb. This wasn't in the script, but it did mean that there was fish in front of me, which is always a good boost for the confidence going into the first night.

With only a few liners through the night, the next morning offered much of the same. The odd beep here and there is often enough to keep you on your toes, and fish were beginning to show around my spots too, so I felt like a bite would come very soon. After refreshing the hookbaits, day turned into night and what had felt inevitable happened. Around 8:00 PM, my right hand rod whipped around with an explosive take that at first had me thinking a second

spritely stockie had again been tempted by the bloodworm banquet, but as it made its way through a patch of submerged reeds, the resistance changed from a fast regular knocking to a slow, heavy kiting that promised this was

definitely a better fish. Once safely in the net, it was clear to see it was decent as well as familiar, it was a common known as Blackspot for obvious reasons, and at a good weight too at 26lb. With the fish returned, the rod back on the spot and dinner sorted, I felt good knowing I'd had two takes on different rods, showing to me that the fish were spread out and definitely on the feed. Night bites are common on my syndicate, so I try to stay awake for most of the night and catch up on some sleep during the daylight hours, when things are generally quieter. There was a lot of activity through the night, both within my fishing boundary and elsewhere on the lake also. But when 4am came around, I decided to get my head down for a couple of hours. My time for rest was short lived



TalkingCarp



when just before sunrise, a short flurry of high pitched tones broke the silence and I was on my feet and out of the bivy before I'd realised I was even awake. Confusion soon followed when I noticed my pod and all three rods, poised on two legs. The left hand rod was doubled round, keeping it all in balance and after retrieving it and settling the other two back in their place, I can only describe the weight I felt on the end as solid. Deja vu sprang to mind immediately as everything that was currently happening had transpired exactly two weeks previously. Same spot, same rod, same time of the day, and the same fiasco with the rod pod, but that time of the fish was lost to the reeds. I had everything crossed that this time would be

different. A
few minutes
into the fight,
it made its
way across
the channel
and into the
marginal reeds,
this was a
regular ploy
here, as the
fish were good
at throwing
the hook

once partially snagged. I have full confidence in Katran fishing line and Deception Angling terminal tackle, so losing this one through product failure hadn't even crossed my mind and with persistent pressure applied, it was wasn't long before it was safely over the cord. It didn't look too big when landing, but when lifting the net from the water I was taken back by the effort it took, this felt special.

By now it was light enough to see without a headtorch, which is always useful when weighing and getting those all important shots. A special fish indeed. In fact, my biggest I've been fortunate enough to catch from my syndicate, a big framed common going 36lb 2oz.



So with photos done and it safely returned, coffee was certainly my next priority. And sitting there processing what had just happened, it dawned on me what had occurred 2 weeks before. Could this have been the same fish that had tied me up in knots on my last outing? I didn't dwell on it, but thought it highly likely that it was and I'd been given a second chance and was buzzing that I'd taken that chance and landed this awesome fish. After some breakfast and a couple of phone calls, I was in again, this time a hard fighting common only tipping the scales of 15lb but by far the best looking fish of the session, with an Immaculate scale pattern and a deep, dark bronze colour that

will almost certainly be a fish I'll be targeting again in the future.
After a couple of hours sleep, I reeled in to check my rigs and put on new baits for the next night.
Everything

was working as it should, so there was no need to change anything. Another kilo or so of bait over each spot, and a further 30 or so freebies spread widely over each with the catapult.

As evening came round again I had a visit from the owner, Leigh. As he often walked his dogs around the lake after work and he was keen to see some pics of what I'd had. He mentioned he was surprised more mirrors hadn't been caught lately, as nearly all of what he'd stocked over the last few years had been handpicked mirrors. I said I was equally surprised I hadn't seen any ghosties out, as there was usually at least one or two seeing the bank



TalkingCarp

on a weekly occurrence.
About an hour after Leigh's departure, darkness was upon me when the right hand rod again sprung to life. This time I managed to avoid the reed bed and without too much trouble saw fish number 5 in the net. Strangely enough, it was a Ghostie and a good one too, being the second biggest fish of the session at 29lb. I had to admit, the randomness of bagging A Ghostie an hour after saying I've not seen one for some time did make me chuckle!

Going into the last night, I learned that during the day a couple more anglers had turned up ready to fish the weekend. I did think that earlier in the week there would be a few on, but unbelievably no one else had come to take advantage of the mega conditions the week

had offered. Although there had been some strong winds and a fair amount of rain, the temperature had remained pretty stable and to be fair, it hadn't been uncomfortable.

Apart from a few liners and the odd bosh here and there, the last night was pretty uneventful, but I had really enjoyed the last few days. Bites had been steady and the stamp of fish I'd had were decent considering the amount of smaller Carp and Tench that reside here. Everything I had used, from bait, tackle and other bits of equipment right down to the PVA, had proved their worth, as they always do. People that know me know that I won't use anything I don't have 100% confidence in, and it's a great feeling finishing a session knowing nothing in my baiting or tactical

approach needed to be looked at or changed.
As bite time had been early evening and right before dawn, I figured spending the full day here probably wasn't worth it, so started a very slow pack down quite early on the





last day. I try and make sure that I can get as much as I can clean and dry before I finish as I prefer to start the next session as prepared as I can be as to focus more time and effort on the things that should be priority like watercraft, bait prep and generally making myself the best chances of being successful. With the nets and cradle fully dry, it was obviously time for another fish because if I hadn't dried everything out it wouldn't have happened. A midday take had become uncommon in recent months, but it was no less welcome, especially when not only was it another good fish, but another good Ghostie too. Another fish bang on the 26lb mark ended the trip in fine form. The decisions made up to this point proved that enduring what might be rubbish conditions for us are often the best times to be out doing what we do.

I plan to start fishing much further afield throughout 2024. Not only because I've done a lot of fishing across the Southwest and fished most of it's day ticket venues, but also because I want to see more of what the UK has to offer, fish more difficult waters and generally just give myself more of a challenge.

Thanks for reading my article and if you want to see more of my angling adventures, take a look at my social media pages.

Facebook - Damian Wheway Instagram - carper_damo_365 Tiktok - Damo (@damian Wheway)

Lastly, I want to thank all the brands that support me and my fishing.

www.stickybaits.com

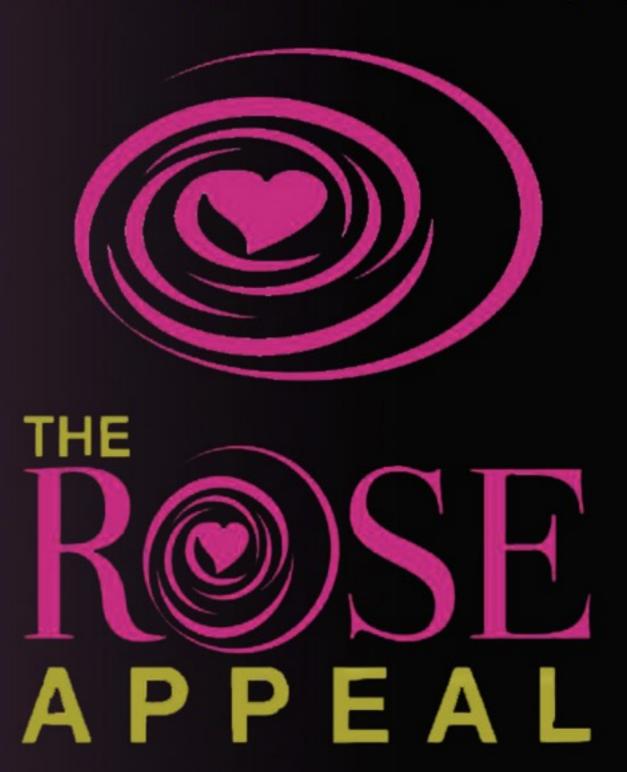
www.katran.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

And finally www.deceptionangling. co.uk who took me on 2 years ago, quickly moved me to a consultancy role, and have been incredible in supporting me and listening to what I have to offer the brand, it's team and it's products that I cannot recommend highly enough.



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS





ACA Bank Buddy

Waterproof Wireless Speaker has been designed and built with outdoor

adventure's in mind,

A Great addition to your kit.

Product features include

Bluetooth connectivity

Hands Free Call Facility

Two Way Control

Aux Input

Built in FM Radio

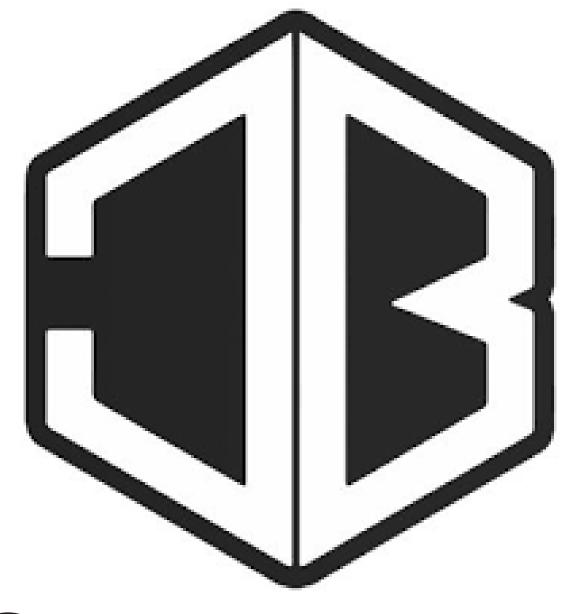
Shock Proof

Only £27.99

Visit www.acaproducts.co.uk







Carbon Baits

Visit www.carbonbaits.co.uk for all the latest offers



Gatch

Reports

Featuring -

Castaway PVA
Deception Angling



Karl Forrest



Scott 'Geezer' Grant





Bruce Hough



Bruce Hough





Adam Stamps



Karl Forrest





Tom Blackmore



Karl Forrest





Volker Protzek



Simon Candy





Peter Becarren



Scott Grant





Ha Wes



Danny van Logchem



www.
pavyottsmillfishery.
co.uk



For Bookings Call Anita on -07913 953844



Pavyotts Mill is a superb 10 acre dedicated Carp fishing complex, comprising of 3 lakes which are well stocked to an impressive 50lb plus

Etang St Pierremont Champagne-Ardenne, France



Visit https://www.etangstpierremont.com

Since purchasing the lake in July 2018, the work has been ongoing, five years ago upon purchasing the complex, after being greeted with complaints from day one about brown water from the village bore hole and a non-working gas boiler we set to work.

After replacing gas boilers with electric water heaters, we then set about installing our own water purification system and am pleased to say that we now have quality clear English standard drinking water.

Last year we introduced fibre broadband and the lake is now completely covered by fast Wi-Fi, air conditioning is more than effective as is the heating in the three bedroomed guests accommodation.

Throughout covid we like every other lake in France struggled but survived moving guests to the following years at our own expense and are pleased with the outcome, year after year our returning guests return complimenting us on how the establishment has improved over the years since we took over.

This year the lake now has a full time Bailiff who is an excellent cook, two freshly cooked hot meals a day with baguettes at lunchtime delivered to the bankside has received very positive feedback, as has the covered pool table and charcoal BBQ which has enabled groups to socialize in the evenings.

As for the fishing during covid weed did appear and eventually got the better of us, thanks to Ben at Gills & Scales and his incredible specialist weed removal boat the weed with roots was successfully removed last September, some weed is inevitable but we now know who to call sooner rather than later should it re appear!

The current lake record is **64.5 lbs** this incredible fish has not been out for eighteen months, there are now multiple fish in there mid 50's, at the time of writing this groups are currently hooking out nineteen fish a week, people wish they could stay and several groups did last year when the following week from theirs was un sold.

This years plan is to completely re-roof and floor the lakeside house eating area and in the winter of 23/24 install electric power points around the lake and net the lake to reduce bio mass.

Our website is updated regularly with a live booking calendar Enquiries and bookings can be requested through the website or by calling **07774747237**

THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -

ACA - ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS

CARBON BAITS

DECEPTION ANGLING

GCT ANGLING

KATRAN

MAINLINE BAITS

RIDGEMONKEY

RODDY CLIPS

Thanks for reading

Send your articles and catch reports by the 28th December 2023 for next months magazine

brian.dixon@talking carp.co.uk mark@talkingcarp.co.uk markcarper@talkingcarp.co.uk



THE CARP MAGAZINE FOR CARP ANGLERS WRITTEN BY YOU !!!!!!

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Mark Galli
Dave Harnick Snr



"Smart Liquid forms an essential part of my angling approach summer and winter. I use it on boilies, pellets, groundbait and particles because I have proven in my tank that the fish go crazy for it in cold and warm water.

They feed sooner, harder and longer when it's in the water massively increasing the chance of a pick up. I literally would not fish without it now. Look out for Thinking Tackle On Demand at Embryo Broom this summer, I smash the lake and have this mega mirror called 'Bullion' all using the Smart Liquid!"

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

FISH SMARTER NOT HARDER!

Water is the catalyst to **SMART LIQUID** infiltrating its underwater environment; throughout the lakebed and bottom substrate horizontally then climbing vertically, impregnating the water column with advanced amino's, palatants and highly stimulatory trace elements!

Due to Smart Liquids unique formulation, it's impossible to overload - simply add as required.









